

Madurai is an ancient city and its origin is related to Tamil Literature. Hence 'Tamil Sangam' was established in the year 1901 and named as Madurai Tamil Sangam. It was established as a non-profit, educational, social, culture and a research establishment to impart knowledge and strive founded by a Philanthropist-scholar Thiru.Pon.Pandithurai Thevar, a noble man of Royal Lineage, on 14th day of September in the year 1901, to impart knowledge and strive for the awakening of interest in Tamil Language and Literature. Till 2001, the Sangam functioned in the buildings donated by Thiru.Pon.Pandithurai Thevar. Under the patronage of the sethupathis, the institution has grown into a centre for Tamil studies. In the early stage of its establishment, the Sangam provided free boarding and lodging to the students of Tamil language and literature.

Senthamil College, Madurai was established by Madurai Tamil Sangam during the year 1957. The founders of the college supported freedom fighters monetarily had the content of the great Swami Vivekananda. The Zamindar of Paalavanatham, donated Rs.1lakh to the patriot V.O.Chidambaranar, one of the great freedom-fighters from Tamil Nadu, when he launched an Indian Merchantship against the British rule. this is in continuation of the philanthropic traits of the Sethupathi Dynasty. Thiru.Pon.Pandithurai Thevar was the son of Ponnusamy Thevar, the uncle of Thiru Baskara Sethupathi, who sponsored for the visit of Swami Vivekanantha to America to take part in the International Religious Conference at Chicago where he delivered a historic speech . He was one of the nephews of the Sethupathis of Ramnad who were the rules of Ramanathapuram, one of the southern Districts of Tamil Nadu.

To disseminate widely the research findings of the Tamil Scholars, a Tamil Research Monthly Journal "Senthamil" was published ever since its inception on 7th of December 1902. The eminent Tamil scholars like U.V.Saminathaiyer, Mu. Raghava Iyengar, Ra.Raghava Iyengar – the court poet of Sethu Dynasty, Sholavandan Arasan Shanmuganar, Vai.Mu.Sadagopachariar, Pinnaththoor Narayanasamy Iyer, Vi.Ko.Suriya Narayana Shastry, Thirumayilai Shanmugam Pillai, Thiru Narayana iyengar, etc. contributed their scholarly articles to this journal. Lovers of Tamil Language and Culture take pride by subscribing this journal. Now the century old "Senthamil" Journal is completely digitalized and available in the Website of the Fourth Tamil Sangam and Tamil University Tanjore.

To inculcate the duty of loyalty to Tamil Language and Culture the young students o High schools and higher secondary schools, Tamil Sangam has been conducting special model examinations named as Tamil Sangath Thervu in Tamil, which certainly help them to do better in all public examinations. The meritorious students receive prizes and the successful ones are given certificates from Tamil Sangam. To honor the Tamil Sangam the Madurai Municipal Authorities named the road in which college is located as Tamil Sangam Road.